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Hill, John.
A centennial history of the First Free W

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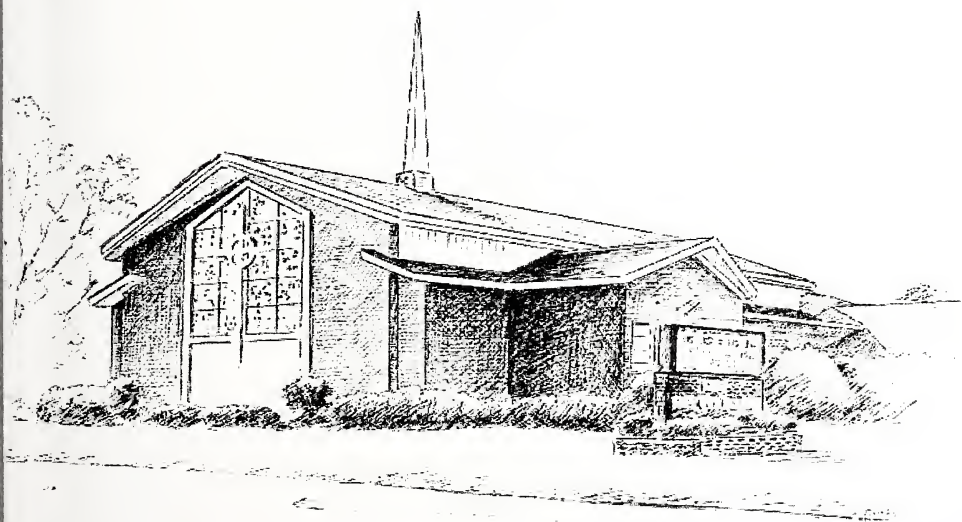
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*A Centennial History of
The First Free Will Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina
(1908-2008)*

October 5, 2008





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**A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF
THE FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
(1908-2008)**

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ESTABLISHMENT AND MISSION

First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro was organized in 1908 by The Reverend Frank Casey, who became the first pastor. The first meetings were held in a section of Goldsboro, now known as "Georgetown," in the home of one of the charter members. In these early meetings, plans were made for a suitable church structure in which to meet and worship.

On October 28, 1908, fifteen members went to the Cape Fear Conference to request and was granted acceptance into the conference. The Reverend Jake Hill donated to the church property on the corner of Lionel and Simmons Streets. Lumber was donated by others; as well as money and labor. Reverend Casey worked on the building at night by the light of a lantern. The work of constructing the church moved forward, but slowly, until it was finally finished and dedicated.

In 1912, the Cape Fear Conference divided over theological differences of sanctification and speaking in tongues. The Conference lost 47 churches and 11, including Goldsboro First, remained with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. This division created the Pentecostal Free Will Baptists.

In 1922, the church decided that a parsonage was needed. They purchased the lot adjoining the church without one dollar in the treasury. The pastor of the church at that time requested the congregation to act on faith and make it an object of prayer, which they did, and the money began to come in. Halsey Malpass offered to lend the church whatever amount they needed to finance the remaining balance. The lot was purchased at a price of \$750; however, a parsonage was never built.

In 1923, the church undertook to build two Sunday School rooms on the back of the church building. Donations were received and the balance of the money was

borrowed from the Goldsboro Building & Loan Associates. After a few struggles and feuds, the rooms were finished for the people with the leadership of their pastor.

Little did the church know they were setting the precedent for other churches. These were the first Sunday School rooms ever to be built in a Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina. The Reverend Thomas E. Beaman was pastor during this period. The Sunday School continued to grow and again the need for more Sunday School rooms was strongly felt. In 1928 the church built rooms beside the church building. Today, these rooms remain on the southwest corner of Simmons and Lionel Streets as a doctor's office.

In 1929, the church organized an orchestra with several members participating: Isabelle Haire Dillon (saxophone), Alma Brock (violin), Douglas McDonald (drums), John McDonald (violin), Betty Lee Rose (piano), Maude Haire Blanchard (symbols and banjo), David Rogers (coronet), Verlin Brock (piano), and Robie Strickland (coronet).

In 1935, a movement was started by the Reverend Thomas E. Beaman to brick veneer the church building and Sunday School rooms. This endeavor moved steadily and the task was completed two years later. Mr. John Mitchell, a contractor and member of the church, gave of his time in supervising the project.

When the Reverend M.L. Johnson was pastor, new pews and windows were installed in the church, and the interior of the church was painted. A parsonage, located at 713 Simmons Street was purchased in 1942. The church felt it was wise to purchase a building already constructed, and use the old lot, intended for a parsonage, for use in building an educational building at a later time.

In 1945, the church borrowed from the Church Finance Association Inc. to pay off the loan on the parsonage, remodel the parsonage, and the balance used for fixing the church building. Arrangements were made in April 1946 to start a kindergarten in September. It is not known when the kindergarten program ended. In October 1950, Reverend Rashie Kennedy started a radio program on Saturdays lasting about 15 minutes.

TREMENDOUS LOSS YET GREATER VICTORY

In November 1954, the church facilities were destroyed by fire. Initial plans were to restore the Goldsboro church property as soon as possible. The Reverend J.^{R.}~~B.~~ Davidson was still serving the church at this time. He said that the church had received estimates from builders which placed the cost of rebuilding between \$50,000 and \$75,000. The insurance company would only pay \$10,000. While the church was without facilities, the congregation held regular worship services, Sunday School, and League at William Street School Administrative Building, and an old Presbyterian church, which is now the home of the Historical Society.

It was voted by the church to have the remains of the church building wrecked, sell the 714 and 716 Simmons Street property with a vision to purchase the B.G. Thompson home at an estimated price of \$50,000. The offer for the Thompson property was turned down. It was then voted on to rebuild on the corner where the church was burned. However, when Mr. Thompson died, the church purchased his house on January 29, 1956 for \$35,000. Every member worked diligently to remodel the interior into a beautiful sanctuary. The note was burned 3 years later in 1959.

In 1960, when Reverend Frank Davenport was pastor of the church, conflict developed over who owned the church. The pastor felt that he should have the property in his name, which the membership disagreed. The church divided. The membership decreased from 319 in 1960 to 230 in 1962. Davenport started another church in Goldsboro, Faith Free Will Baptist Church on Highway 70 West.

The Reverend C.H. Overman was supply pastor for one year, and the next year he became pastor. The Reverend James Evans became pastor and came with Reverend and Mrs. J.E. Timmons, missionaries in Mexico. The Reverend and Mrs. Timmons joined the church so they would become members and missionaries of the North Carolina Free Will Baptists.

RETURN TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

In 1964, Taylor Hill and John Adcox, two prominent members of our church were transferred to Fayetteville with their jobs. Hill told the church he felt he was called into the pastoral ministry. Adcox and Hill began a mission at Fayetteville. Our church voted to endorse the mission and allow them to use our old hymnals and later, when they had a building, to use our old pews. In the spring of 1973, the church in Fayetteville had grown a great deal and challenged the Goldsboro church to a contest in Sunday School attendance for a month. Eastwood, as the Fayetteville church is known, won the contest and was served dinner by the Goldsboro church. Years later Reverend Taylor Hill became the Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention.

The Reverend James Evans was pastor when the congregation decided to build a sanctuary. In March 1964, a committee was elected to investigate plans for building a church. A Groundbreaking Service was held October 4, 1964. The congregation dedicated and moved into this church on New Year's Day 1967. There was no pastor at this time. In March, the church voted to ask The Reverend Ed Miles, who had served as supply pastor, to be part-time pastor.

In June of 1968, the congregation purchased the property, on the corner of Leslie and Mulberry next to the church, for a parking lot. In August, the church voted to go full-time and to call a full-time pastor. Reverend Miles agreed to stay until a pastor was found. The Reverend David C. Hansley came as pastor in May of 1969 and resigned in December of the same year. Dr. Michael Pelt served as supply pastor until The Reverend Earl Glenn accepted the pastorate in June 1970.

The sanctuary side windows were installed in 1975. In 1979, the Reverend Norman Ard was called as pastor. In 1983 Goldsboro First helped form United Church Ministries that continues to reach the poor of Wayne County today.

In 1985, the Thompson Building was destroyed. Following the demolition, the church built an educational building and fellowship hall in 1989.

In remembrance of their parents, the children of Roy and Ola Mae Bailey donated the bell tower in 1992. The tower holds the church bell from the original

church building that burned in 1954. The bell tower stands outside the building in front of the still existing B.G. Thompson Carriage House.

The congregation has been very active in the Foreign Missions ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. In November 1998, the church raised \$7000 to build a school in India. Some current members have been sent on mission trips to Mexico every year from 2001 to the present. They have been to Sabinas, Monclova, Saltillo, Piedras Negras, and other places, to help share the news of Christ.

In June 2000, the church broadcast a weekly television program in the Goldsboro area. This program included special music and a sermon. It ended in June 2002.

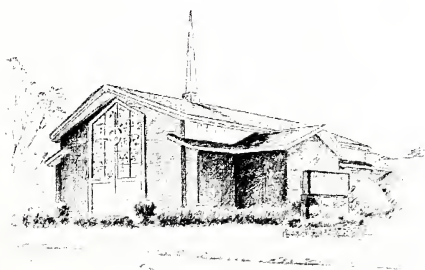
In the spring of 2006, Reverend Ard resigned as pastor and The Reverend Frank Flowers came as supply pastor until the end of November of that year. The Reverend John Hill accepted the position of pastor in December. In 2007, the church started two handbell choirs that have played for worship and for special occasions.

In 2008, the church has taken on the task of raising money to buy a bus. They have also started a prayer room ministry and engaged in the *Pursuing Missional Faithfulness Spiritual Journey* to revitalize ministries and renew a call to missions.

Although the church has suffered many setbacks, her resolve for ministry and mission served to call its members to higher callings. These callings produced greater faith and a heart for ministry. *May God help her to continue her ministry in the future, for truly we are standing on holy ground.*

Pastors of First Free Will Baptist Church Goldsboro, NC

1908-1918	Reverend Frank Casey
1919-1921	Reverend E.C. Futrell
1921-1925	Reverend W.A. Benson
1925-1926	Reverend B.P. Parks
1926-1929	Reverend J.C. Griffin
1929-1933	Reverend R.E. Tripp
1933-1939	Reverend R.B. Spencer
1939-1940	Reverend C.B. Thompson
1940-1943	Reverend M.L. Johnson
1943-1947	Reverend T.E. Beaman
1947-1951	Reverend Rashie Kennedy
1951-1953	Reverend Walter Reynolds
1953-1959	Reverend J. ^{B.} Davidson <i>J.R.</i>
1959-1960	Reverend Ralph Osborn
1960-1961	Reverend Frank Davenport
1961-1962	Reverend C.H. Overman <i>(interim)</i>
1962-1963	Reverend C.H. Overman
1963-1967	Reverend James Evans
1967-1968	Reverend Ed Miles
1969-1970	Reverend David C. Hansley
1970-1979	Reverend Earl Glenn
1979-2006	Reverend Norman Ard
2006-present	Reverend John Hill



PRAYER REQUESTS

SHUT-INS

Lola Barwick
Braston Keen
Elizabeth Watson
Ruby Cooke

CHURCH FAMILY

Bob Rouse
Laura Jamison
James Jamison
Anne Denise
Richard Denise
Carol Franks
Bob Lord
James "Fred" Roberts
Lindley Roberts
Raymond Howell
Lois Howell
James Malpass
Edith Howell
Dot Lord

COMMUNITY

H. M. Poythress
Susan King
Marcy Oliver
Brenda Stolzenburg
Ed Stolzenburg
Durwood Anderson
Rev. Donald Coats
Shirley Griffin
Jimmy Bradshaw
Ed Moore
Woody Pierce
Phillipa Darush

*WELCOME to our Homecoming
Service as we celebrate the 100th
Birthday of our church. We are
Happy you have come to share
This occasion with us. Please plan
To stay for dinner following the
Morning Worship. (There will be
No evening service).*

*The flowers in the sanctuary
are given by the Benton family
in honor of Gertha Benton and
in memory of Lenwood Benton.*

*The flowers in the narthex
are given in loving memory of
Melvin and Annie Jackson by
Lib Daughtry and family and
Joyce and Don Cox and family.*

*If you would like a DVD of today's service
(which will also include the history of the
Church and parts of the service held on
Simmons Street), they will be available
for \$15.00 each.*

DEACON VISITATION TEAM:

Lloyd Dawson and Jim Pace

Nursery Workers

*Mary Bailey and Patricia Allen
Next Sunday: Mae Pace and Joy Hill*

*Greeters: Ken and Marilyn Benton
Next Sunday: Lloyd and Peggy Dawson*

Tuesday

*7:00 p.m. Deacon's meeting
7:00 Woman's Auxiliary meeting*

Wednesday

*5:00 Study Time
6:45 Youth Bible Studies
7:00 Adult Bible Study
7:30 Chancel Choir Practice*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Offering 9-28: 1325.12

*Harvest Connection is collecting used
(clean) T-Shirts for Disaster Relief.
Goldsboro 4-Hers will be sending out
A box on October 18 for "Make a
Difference Day". If you would like to
Donate shirts, please bring them to the
Church by October 17.*

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008**

***Confession of Faith**

We believe there is one living, true and eternal God, the father in whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and unchangeable in all His attributes. We believe there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who was truly God and truly man. We believe there is one Holy Spirit, the precious gift of the Father through His Son, who is the divine presence in our lives. We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, all believers everywhere. We believe in the general provision made of God in Christ for all who respond in total trust and commitment. We believe in the fellowship of the saints through the worshipping community and in the promise of life eternal. Amen.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

Homecoming Sermon

Rev. John Hill

*Hymn of Celebration

Because He Lives

Hymn No. 260

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Celebration of Communion

*Benediction and Table Blessing

Postlude

** Please Stand. As You Are Able*

Prelude

Chiming the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Handbells Choir

*Hymn of Praise

O Worship The King

Hymn No. 3

All Hail The Power (vs. 1 & 4)

Hymn No. 4

*Greeting of Family and Friends

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Pastoral Prayer

Greeting from the City

The Honorable Al King

Mayor of the City of Goldsboro

Presentation from the Convention

Mary Dudley,

Executive Director of Sunday School

Special Remarks

Marci Rollins-Smart

Special Music

The Quartet

Memorial Service

Pam Gatlin

Life Membership Award

Lisa Trivette Williams

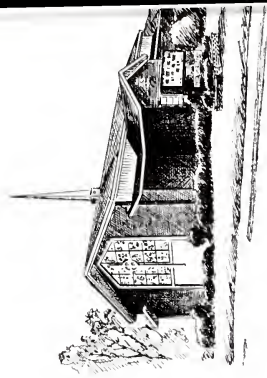
Gathering Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

*Hymn of Praise

The Church's One Foundation

Hymn No. 331



**FIRST
FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**604 EAST ASH STREET
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530**

919-735-0065

REV. JOHN HILL

"PURSUING THE VISION"

 **ACCO USA**
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

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LT. GRAY/GRIS/GRIS CLARO

MADE IN USA

